CLAIMS

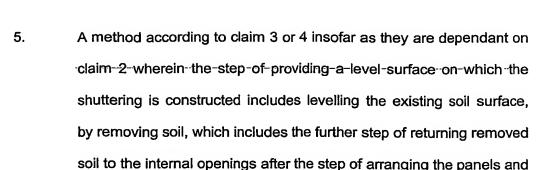1.   A method of constructing a composite foundation structure including the steps of:

-       providing a plurality of panels;

-       arranging the panels to provide shuttering defining a grid of intersecting channels for receiving settable material;

-       casting settable material into the channels; and

-       allowing the settable material to set and to bond to the shuttering so that the panels are incorporated into the foundation structure as an integral part thereof.

2.   A method according to claim 1, which includes the further step of providing a level surface on which the shuttering is constructed.

3.   A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the shuttering are arranged such that they form angular structures each defining an internal opening, the grid of channels being defined between adjacent structures.

4.   A method according to claim 3 wherein adjacent structures are connected to and spaced from each other with spacers.
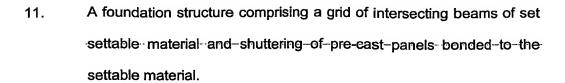
5. A method according to claim 3 or 4 insofar as they are dependant on claim 2 wherein the step of providing a level surface on which the shuttering is constructed includes levelling the existing soil surface, by removing soil, which includes the further step of returning removed soil to the internal openings after the step of arranging the panels and prior to casting the settable material into the channels.

6. A method according to claim 5, which includes the further step of compacting the soil in the openings.

7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the panels are selected from the group comprising non-degradable pre-cast concrete and fibre reinforced cementicious material.

8. A method according to claim 4 wherein the spacers are of cementicious material.

9. A method substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

10. A composite foundation structure constructed according to the method of any one of claims 1 to 9.

11.   A foundation structure comprising a grid of intersecting beams of set settable material and shuttering of pre-cast panels bonded to the settable material.

5   12.   A foundation structure according to claim 11 wherein the shuttering is of settable material.

13.   A foundation structure according to claim 11 or 12 wherein the panels are selected from the group comprising non-degradable pre-cast

10   concrete and fibre reinforced cementicious material.

14.   A foundation structure substantially as herein described and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

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